

## STORM WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD

February 16, 2021

6:30 p.m.

### CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Member T. Kopko called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order and roll call; present were Member T. Kopko, Member P. Stofko, and Member V. Wittig.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member P. Stofko made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 meeting, motion seconded by Member V. Wittig; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

### CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Member P. Stofko made the motion to approve the claims packet as submitted, motion seconded by Member V. Wittig; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

### REPORTS

**MS 4 PROGRAM REPORT** – NO REPORT

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT** – Town Engineer Mark O’Dell reported a deficit for the month of January in the amount of \$1,311 and revenue in the amount of \$39,795.

**OTHER REPORTS** – Street Commissioner J. Schnadenberg reported there has been lots of snow.

### OLD BUSINESS

**CR 1050 Ditch**—Town Engineer Mark O’Dell discussed the survey from DLZ. The weather must cooperate for hydro excavating. This will hopefully happen later in spring.

**Storm Water and Construction General Permit-** MS4 Coordinator J. Gadzala reported she submitted comments to IDEM on behalf of the town.

NEW BUSINESS

**Senate Bill No. 389-** MS4 Coordinator J. Gadzala reported that a bill which has already been approved by the Indiana Senate would repeal all existing state protections of “isolated wetlands,” or those wetlands not directly connected at the surface to other bodies of water, like streams, rivers, and lakes. MS 4 Coordinator Gadzala and Town Engineer M. O’Dell have sent an email to State Reps. Pat Boy, D-Michigan City, and Chuck Moseley, D-Portage, dated Jan. 29, saying they strongly oppose S.B. 389. Gadzala further explained that Chesterton is located in the Calumet Lacustrine (Lake) Plain, which consists of soils that support significant numbers of isolated wetland within the Town’s jurisdiction. These wetlands would lose the state’s wetlands protections and open them up for filling and development. The Town relies heavily on these wetlands to assimilate large volumes of surface water runoff as well as engineered drainage from existing subdivisions, roads, and other development. The destruction of these wetlands would place a huge burden on areas downstream, where water would be forced to avoid flooding in the Town. These wetlands also serve to filter surface water runoff whereby they remove sediment and pollutants prior to reaching Lake Michigan via the Little Calumet River and Salt Creek. The loss of wetlands has the potential to increase the pollutant load to Lake Michigan, a drinking water source for Northern Indiana. MS4 Coordinator Gadzala urged concerned citizens to contact their legislators as the bill has not yet made it to the House floor.

ADJOURNMENT

Member P. Stofko made the motion to adjourn, motion seconded by Member V. Wittig; motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

ATTEST:

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PRESIDENT STORM WATER BOARD

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CLERK-TREASURER C. UDVARE